61/174S



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: GAO=1

In re Application of:

Yunzhi GAO, et al

Appln. No.: 09/865,601

Filed: May 29, 2001

For: EMBOSSED CURRENT

COLLECTOR SEPARATOR...

Art Unit: 1745

Washington, D.C.

Confirmation No. 4139

September 2, 2004

RESPONSE

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Honorable Commissioner for Patents Mail Stop AF 2011 South Clark Place Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03 Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

The Examiner's action dated June 02, 2004, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

The rejections presented in sections 2 and 5 of the Action are traversed on the grounds that Japanese publication JP 2000-323151 is not available as prior art against the claims of the present Application. The effective date of that reference as prior art is its publication date, which was November 24, 2000. However, the present Application claims priority rights based on Japanese application no. 2000-157189, filed on May 26, 2000. A certified copy of this priority